are at various stages of development. It would not be in the interest of national security to divulge any further details in this regard.

Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya

756. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Kendriya Vidyalaya opened in the country during 1996-97;

(b) whether the scheme pertaining to opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal region of Uttar Pradesh has been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) 20 new Kendriya Vidyalayas were sanctioned for 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has informed that the proposal for opening of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sambhal Town has not been received from the District Administration.

Village Libraries

757. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Culture had any proposal to set up village Libraries equipped with basic educational facilities since 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementing this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The Department had formulated a scheme of School-cum-Village Libraries. The Scheme was not approved by the Ministry of Finance, which advised the evaluation of the existing schemes to avoid duplication.

Development of Underground Water Resources

758. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an action plan is being formulated by the Union Government for the development of underground water resources in the districts of the States facing drought every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the concise draft of the scheme and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the progress made so far in respect of this scheme in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. Water being a State subject, development of ground water resources in the drought prone districts of various States is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, there is an on-going scheme under implementation by the Central Ground Water Board for providing assistance to drought affected States. Under this scheme, 25 rigs are presently deployed by the Board in drought prone districts of various States for drilling of wells.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) Under the on-going scheme 4 rigs are presently deployed in the drought prone districts of Allahabad and Mirzapur of Uttar Pradesh for drilling 36 boreholes (31 exploratory wells and 5 observation wells) during 1997-98.

[English]

Use of IAF Aircraft by MOS

759. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the present Union Minister of State for Defence used IAF aircraft to take his relative and others from Chennai to Delhi and Calcutta;

(b) the charges payable by him to IAF in this regard;

(c) the amount paid by him so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the balance amount from him?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Raksha Rajya Mantri uses Service aircraft in the discharge of his functions. Divulging the purpose of each journey, and other details would not be in public interest.